

Message Text

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ACTION ITFE-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 VO-03 SCA-01 IO-10 EUR-12 /091 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5943

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: STATUS OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AT KHLONG YAI, PROVINCE OF
TRAT

1. EMBASSY APPROACHED JUNE 11 BY MRS. PHILLIP GROUSE, WIFE OF
DEAN OF NEW COLLEGE AT UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES, WHO HAS
BEEN WORKING FOR PAST MONTH, TRYING TO ARRANGE ENTRY OF VIET-
NAMESE REFUGEES INTO AUSTRALIA. MRS. GROUSE HAS HAD HER ATTEN-
TION DRAWN TO SITUATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AT CAMP NEAR
KHLONG YAI, PROVINCE OF TRAT, IN SOUTHEAST FINGER OF THAILAND
BETWEEN CAMBODIA AND GULF OF SIAM. SOME 500 REFUGEES REPORTED
TO BE THERE. FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES FOR REFUGEES PROVIDED BY
THAI GOVERNMENT ARE REPORTEDLY DIVERTED BY PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS
AND SOLD FOR THEIR PERSONAL ENRICHMENT. SEVERAL CASES REPORTED
OF WOMEN REFUGEES WHO HAVE BEEN RAPED IN CAMP SHOWERS. THAI
AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY ARE THREATENING TO RETURN THESE REFUGEES
TO SOUTH VIET-NAM. CANADIAN EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE REPORTEDLY
VISITED CAMP AND ARRANGED TO REMOVE SOME REFUGEES WHO HAVE BEEN
APPROVED FOR ENTRY INTO CANADA. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY REPORTEDLY
HAS DECLINED TO VISIT CAMP OR TO DO ANYTHING TO FACILITATE
ENTRY INTO AUSTRALIA OF REFUGEES RELATED TO VIETNAMESE

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RESIDENTS OF AUSTRALIA.

2. EMBOFF POINTED OUT THAT THERE IS LITTLE U.S. CAN DO ABOUT THIS SITUATION, OTHER THAN TO SEEK TO VERIFY FACTS OF SITUATION AND INTENTIONS OF THAI GOVERNMENT. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT EMBASSY SEEK TO VERIFY WHETHER SITUATION OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AT KHLONG YAI IS AS BAD AS DEPICTED ABOVE AND WHAT INTENTIONS OF THAI GOVERNMENT ARE. IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY OF THEIR RESETTLEMENT OR AT LEAST TEMPORARY MOVEMENT ELSEWHERE, THROUGH UN OR ICEM FACILITIES?
GREEN

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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